

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 5, 2003. Claims 1-10, 13-26, 29-34, and 36 are pending in this application. Claim 3, which is an independent claim, has been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention, in terms that distinguish over the art of record. Claims 1, 3, and 4 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

First, Applicants acknowledge the allowance of Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 30, 32, and 34.

The Office Action rejected Claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 13, 15, 17, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *HDTV Single-Chip CCD Color TV* by Tanaka et al. (hereinafter “Tanaka et al.”), and rejected Claims 19, 21, 23, 25, 29, 31, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,907,355 (Kotaki). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants submit that amended independent Claim 3, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, is patentably distinct from Tanaka et al. at least for the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 3 is an image pickup device comprising a color filter array that includes color filters arranged in horizontal and vertical directions, a plurality of pixels including photoelectric converting elements arranged in the horizontal and vertical directions, respectively corresponding to the color filters, and a plurality of vertical read-out units provided for a plurality of pixels arranged in the vertical direction, the plurality of vertical read-out units being arranged to read out signals from the plurality of pixels arranged in the vertical direction. The image pickup device also includes a horizontal read-out unit arranged to read out sequentially the signals

from the plurality of vertical read-out units in the horizontal direction, an output unit arranged to output sequentially the signals from the horizontal read-out unit, and a control unit arranged to divide the plurality of pixels on a unit basis of a predetermined number of lines, which includes a plurality of first lines alternating with a plurality of second lines, and arranged to add the signals of pixels of adjacent first lines and second lines to generate a color difference signal from every unit, wherein the control unit generates unit-sequentially different color difference signals from the units adjacent to each other so that the color difference signals generated from adjacent units are different, and the color difference signals generated from every other unit are equal.

One notable feature of Claim 3 is that the image pickup apparatus is arranged to divide a plurality of pixels on a unit basis of a predetermined number of lines of pixels arranged two-dimensionally, where the generated unit-sequentially different color difference signals from the units adjacent units are different and the color difference signals generated from every other unit are equal.

Tanaka et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to a high-definition single-chip CCD color camera. The Office Action at page 2 states that Tanaka, in section 3, discusses that two color difference signals, R-Y and B-Y, are “field-sequentially” composed. Even if Tanaka et al. teaches or suggests generating only the signal R-Y in the first field and generating only the signal B-Y in the second field (shown in Fig. 3), Applicants have found nothing in Tanaka et al. that would teach or suggest generating different color difference signals unit-sequentially, the unit being a predetermined number of lines of pixels.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that at least for the reasons discussed above Claim 3 is patentable over Tanaka et al.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and the allowance of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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